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SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1912.

BUSINESS MEN NEED INFORMATION.

The Business Men's Club has struck upon a good scheme to enlighten its members as to the qualifications of the sixteen candidates for the Administrative Board. Each day at the luncheon hour a single candidate will be given ten minutes in which to set before the gentlemen in attendance for that meal his record and platform upon which he makes a claim for their votes and support. This ought to be a good thing for both business men and candidates. It has all the advantages that come from personal contact and the consequent ability to judge of a man's mental equipment and character as well as his spoken words. It is a step in the right direction, namely, the search for definite information as to men and measures as a preliminary for intelligent voting.

It may be noted that the business men are as much in need of information as any other possible voters. They are likely to overlook the need of studying municipal questions in the rush of their more immediate private affairs. Yet their business interests are vitally and fundamentally affected by the character of public servant they entrust with the community side of their business activities. The idea that any individual or corporation can make his affairs independent of the lack of proper public service is a supremely fallacious. Private and public welfare are inextricably intertwined. It is a good sign that Richmond business men are waiting to the need of having a voice in their public business. They can complain of mismanagement with greater emphasis.

It will also be a good thing to have the intelligence and ambitions of the candidates subjected to the test of cold and critical commercial judgment. They will realize the necessity for stating specific facts and proposed reforms, and cannot take refuge in the glittering generalities that sound well in the popular ear at a mass-meeting. It might even be advisable to lay down ten points and ask each aspirant what he proposes to do for Greater Richmond along these lines. If five minutes more might be used for the asking of pertinent questions, it would be time well spent. In many ways the Business Men's luncheon addresses can throw needed light on the question of securing the five best men for Richmond's experiment in modern government.

THE ALASKAN "HOME RULE" BILL.

The passing by Congress of the bill establishing civil government in Alaska—granting the territory a measure of home rule—naturally draws attention again to how Seward's "folly" has proved Seward's wisdom. When, in 1867, William H. Seward paid \$7,200,000 for the Russian-barrren "waste" on this side of the Bering Strait and Sea, comprising more than half a million square miles, he was roundly denounced for having allowed the Bear to unload upon us a frozen white elephant. The Bear hugged himself in self-delightful gloom, having struck a good bargain. Seward's critics exulted in his having made a bad and foolish one.

No doubt the then Secretary of State had no idea of how far he was building better than he knew. No doubt he had but faint conception of the vindication the future had in store for him in the way of economic returns on the investment. It is questionable, in fact, whether he had any definite conception at all as to that matter, notwithstanding that there were vague rumors of great hidden material wealth in the area. If he considered the prospect of interest on the outlay in that form, it was a secondary consideration. The paramount consideration with Seward in buying Alaska was not to satisfy a land hunger appetite, or a craving for territorial expansion. The deal was primarily of a piece with our general and traditional policy of eliminating as far as possible this continent from foreign domination, and secondarily was directed towards forestalling British acquisition of most of the Pacific interior.

But how much better than he knew did Seward build from an economic and material viewpoint. The stream comes in the bottom of a golden stream that pours out of the westward, and whose fountain head is concealed in practically inexhaustible, and the source of constantly flowing rivulets of other riches. Strike the balance since 1875.

In the intervening time we have received from Alaska \$135,000,000 in gold; \$1,000,000 worth of seal skins; and upwards of \$1,000,000 in net revenue. Beyond that it has been demonstrated that parts of the country are admirably adapted to the raising of certain staple crops and the breeding of certain strains of live stock on a most extensive scale. Contrary to the more prevalent impression, the climate is by no means all right; the landscape is by no means desolation. Adding

all other contributions to the above figures, and the net balance in our favor, after charging off the purchase price and the expenditures for postal and other government service, totals up, it is claimed, \$110,000,000. Moreover, the work of development is still in its infancy; the task of exploitation, with the assurance of almost incalculable reward, has virtually just begun. The bill in point provides for a legislative body consisting of one house and composed of sixteen members, and limits the legislative sessions to sixty days. This is in consonance with the tendency to concentrate responsibility. Although the measure does not, it is understood, go as far as the Alaskans could wish in according self-government, it is believed, and with convincing reason, that it will impart tremendous impulse not only to further development and utilization of the territory's vast natural resources, but to colonization for the purpose of home-making. It cannot but be the beginning of the emergence of Alaska from the pioneer and adventive and migratory period into the period of wide civilization and stability of population, on which to found one of the greatest, wealthiest and most prosperous states in the sisterhood. It lays the cornerstone of a monument to Seward's memory, which will cast into the shadows of historic oblivion much which as a politician and a sectional politician has been lustily written against him. His folly is coming to be atonement.

"CATCHING UP WITH ROOSEVELT."

Most of us are waiting for the mammoth third party circus at Chicago, with the Bull Moose as ringmaster, with a bandanna around his neck, a black stouch hat on his head and a big whip in his hand. There are some sideshows on the way to the big tent which are nevertheless most entertaining, such as that of the Michigan Third Term Party. The Bull Moose struck it when he fairly shrieked his "charter of democracy" speech at Columbus, but he has been trilling in a minor key ever since. The Michigan brethren are still going it at the top of their voices. They declared not only for the initiative, referendum and the recall, including the recall of judges. They favored these policies "not only as applied to State, but also in extension of those principles to the nation." The Bull Moose's manager, Senator Dixon, was "present and gave orders which were obeyed to the letter." The Bull Moose himself, then, must have found the Michigan platform in its entirety satisfactory.

The Third Termers of Michigan would "go the limit." Their declaration is for the recall of the President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives. The sop thrown to the development of conservation has been that the initiative, referendum and the recall were to be applied only to State officers, and there was no proposition to extend them to the Federal government, but the Michigan statesmen advocate a revolution that would affect all departments of our political structure—a change as radical that it would reach to the very foundations of the government.

Federal officers could not be recalled under our present Constitution, for it fixes their tenure. Judges remain in office during good behavior. To make the change effective, the Constitution itself would have to be recalled. The Third Termers have already proposed to make it possible to amend the organic law of the nation more easily. The Bull Moose believes in "fluid constitutions." The Michigan idea is altogether revolutionary, for it would slug the scurvy over the ropes, make the judges come to time, cinch the President of the United States, crack the Senate between the eyes and punch the House in the lamps.

Under the Michigan system, it would not only be proper but easy for the President to appeal to "the people" over the judges' heads, and if he did, he would soon be superior to both law and precedent.

Frank Munsey, one of the Roosevelt high-priests, says that we are now "catching up with Roosevelt." From the Michigan case it appears that we are.

PRESIDENT MCCREA AND RAILROAD FINANCE.

President McCrea, of the Pennsylvania Lines, has recently repeated to the engineers' wage-arbitration board his well-known tale of woe relative to his impoverished and starving railroad. His story runs thus: "The price of materials and equipment have greatly increased during recent years, the rate of pay to employees has gone up 10 per cent, government supervision has required the installation of costly safety appliances, and the Interstate Commerce Commission will not permit the railroads to raise freight rates in order to meet increased costs of operation. As a consequence, after paying their dividends and plating an equal amount in permanent additions and betterments, the railroads would be thrown into bankruptcy by any further additions to their operating costs."

The fundamental fallacy in President McCrea's argument is that no further advances in freight rates can be secured. Two years ago, when all the carriers east of the Mississippi River made application for permission to increase their freight tariffs, and failed to show financial need for an expansion of resources, the Interstate Commerce Commission stated that the carriers had not submitted evidence to prove their case, but the submission of additional data in a change of circumstances might lead them to change their decision. As a matter of fact, when the railroads can show the need

of additional rates they can be obtained. The burden of proof is by law placed upon the carriers, and so far they have been unable to bring forth the necessary data.

President McCrea also fails to mention the large economies in conducting transportation which have been made possible by the use of heavier locomotives and freight and coal cars of greater capacity. Neither does he mention the probable increase in traffic in the future or the growth in railroad earnings. He is also silent as to the interlocking directorates of steel manufacturing companies and the immense expense thus imposed upon the railroads by the necessity of paying exorbitant prices for steel rails, cars and engines. From the standpoint of corporate finance, however, the weakest point in the argument of President McCrea is found in the statement that the railroads should be allowed, in order to maintain their credit, to invest in permanent improvements an amount equal to the sum declared in dividends. In other words, stockholders should be granted a liberal dividend and an equivalent increment in property value. This is in line with the practices of the railroads before 1907, when they were stopped by the Interstate Commerce Commission, of concealing earnings by charging extensive improvements to operating expenses.

President McCrea's argument is the same as it was two years ago in the advance rate cases. It was not then accepted by the Interstate Commerce Commission. As it is repeated at the present time, it has not gained any convincing power.

EIFFEL TOWER A LIGHTNING-ROD.

Men are slowly learning to master the forces of the air as they have those of the land and water. The latest advance is making a lightning-rod out of Eiffel Tower for the purpose of preventing hailstorms and thunderbolts. The French government has discovered that some \$30,000,000 a year is lost in that country from the ravages of hail. This is particularly true of the great vineyard regions along the Loire and Gironde. Experiments have shown that tall copper conductors in some way change the hail-making effect of atmospheric electrical currents, and a chain of hail-destroyers has been established through the danger zone.

French savants have long held that electricity is largely responsible for the formation and precipitation of hail upon the earth. Although this is not the generally accepted theory, enough data has been gathered to make the present attempt at protection very interesting. The hail-rod is called a "parapetole," and is comparatively inexpensive. In a general way it consists of a rod of pure copper at least 130 feet high, terminating in a crown or plume of copper blades. The base ends in a pool of water, preferably a flowing stream. Church steeples, factory chimneys and special towers can be used if properly insulated. The parapetoles are installed every six miles in a line transverse to that followed by prevailing storms. In Paris an "electric Niagara" has been put on top of the Eiffel Tower as a safeguard.

In connection with this attempt to subdue the hitherto recalcitrant weather that proverbially blew and hailed where it listed, the proposed use of wireless currents to settle the atmospheric waves in the immediate vicinity of an aeroplane is interesting. Some of the present schemes may prove futile, but they point out a new field for science to conquer in helping man to a supreme and untroubled domain in the world. If hail can be prevented, why ultimately cannot destructive tornadoes and costly droughts and floods be prevented too?

More than a year ago The Times-Dispatch nominated Morris Sheppard, of Texas, for Joe Bailey's seat in the United States Senate, and now he's got it.

Things have certainly changed when William Jennings Bryan is the largest contributor to the Democratic campaign fund.

It ought not to be called the Bull Moose party, but the Peacock party.

The three candidates for the United States Senate in North Carolina have talked about almost everything under the sun, but none has been so brazen as to uphold the spurious Macklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Most of the speeches now made in Congress are for campaign consumption, and the daily proceedings have turned into an oratorical contest as to which speeches shall get into the campaign textbooks.

Roosevelt's platform may advocate votes for women, but what he really needs is votes from men.

Maybe Governor Wilson went to sea just to get used to the tidal wave that is coming in November.

Among other thoughts for the first of August, when will Mayo's Bridge be finished?

One freak no one will be able to find for the Fair is a Richmond man who isn't a boaster.

The Kentuckian who waited until he was eighty-three years old to be baptized did so because it took him that long to find out that water has other uses than that of being put under a bridge.

"Richmond is the one place that makes the masher think Vance," in the Staunton Leader, but it would take Taft's steam roller to mash the party, fired at by Eight and Irred.

Colonel Roosevelt says that President Taft has forgotten the people are wise. Will Theodore forget too?

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The Auction Wedding.
One of the small papers published in this week which was a weird mixture of an account of a wedding and an auction notice. The most interesting part of the item follows:

William Smith, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, and Mrs. Lucy Anderson were disposed of at public auction at my farm, one mile east of the residence of seventy-five guests, including two mules and twelve head of cattle.
The bride, wearing a white tulle for the party, averaging 150 pounds on the hoof, the beautiful home of the bride was decorated with one sulky, one four-wheeled and two sets of work harness, newly new, and just before the ceremony was pronounced. The bride's wedding march was rendered by one mule, five years old, one Jersey cow and one yearling, carrying a bunch of hickory boxes in her hind legs. The bride wore one light spring wagon, two crates of apples, three racks of hay, and a bunch of chickens. The bride was trimmed with about 100 bushels of apples. The bride's bouquet consisted of an extended trip. Terms spot cash.

Another Memory.
How dear to me are the scenes of my childhood.
That little hall room at the head of the stairs.
That soft feather bed that did always enfold me.
That old flannel nightgown that I used to wear.
The beautiful nightgown that I used to wear.
They may be high, loomed, in a way, that old flannel nightgown that I used to wear.
The soft fuzzy nightgown.
The flannel nightgown that I used to wear.

Heard on the Kerosene Circuit.
"Honest, Madge, I am so fat that you ever see me in a canoe you will have to look twice."

"I don't like the weather of the rain or the snow. But when it's raining, the weather, whether or not."

"Most men like little women." "Ah, yes, and little women like most men."

"The saddest words of men, by heck, are, 'Please send check.'"

"Why is the upper jaw the musical jaw?" "It'll give it up. Why?" "Because it is the over-shower."

"You can always tell a married woman, but you can't tell her very much."

From the Hickoryville Clarion.
The Ladies' Aid gave a musical show at Hickoryville house last week and borrowed \$100.00. The clerk took to black ink with them about four inches off it and old man Purdy was so old and fat that he had to be carried out at present. He has been pinched three times for intoxication, but the ladies planned the matter to the rescue and exacted a fine of \$10.00.

The culprit, who broke into the Clarion office night before last, and stole \$10.00, was a man named 'Pete' in the name of humanity to return same and there will be no prosecution.

The Clarion will not be much of a paper if we cannot get out and get the news, and we can't do it wrapped in a paper.

Hank Redwood says when he died he wants everyone to be sorry he is dead, and he is going to have the Hickoryville Silver Comet Band play at his funeral.

The tailors and dressmakers have tried to make up up costumes that no woman would have the nerve to wear on the street, but their efforts in this direction have been all in vain.

There ain't no use, in argument, with the old-fashioned feller who wears a bow tie and gets his wealth or only an opinion.

It is getting so nowadays that it takes more than a dress suit and a bow tie to get a feller into the best society, but a lot of 'em are slow about finding it out.

Memories.
The campaign cartoon of the money king with the dollar mark clothes.
The outfit-funnel nightshirt.
The stage villain with the silk hat and the diamond watch.
Sign in every library stable reading.

"Whip light drive slow, cash in hand or no go."
Mechanical Canary bird on the end of the bag.
Reclining pipes.
Hoop rollers in vaudeville.

Voice of the People

King William Veterans Had Splendid Reception.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—While one of the writers, with his ready pen, will tell to the many readers of this paper the story of the interesting meeting at King William Courthouse yesterday, please allow this humble private a little space to say that the King William chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, gave to the "Old Line" another regular annual meeting on July 11, which was much enjoyed by the vets, who for some days have been looking forward to and preparing themselves for the least of good things we so much enjoy, and say that the meeting was a most successful one, and that the veterans of the past, who have cheerfully endured hardships and faced dangers in the past, were well represented and performed their duty. We vetted and shined our guns, washed our hands and faces clean and nice, put on our best and our Sunday clothes, and carried our competitors with us, and proved to the noble daughters we appreciated their kindness, liberality and good nature, and that we were thinking of and providing for our enjoyment.

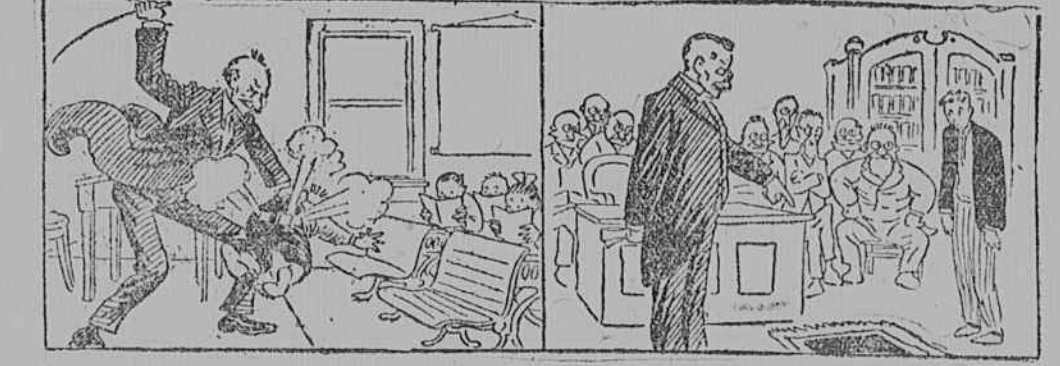
A surprising dinner was served under the shadow of the beautiful monument.

Abe Martin

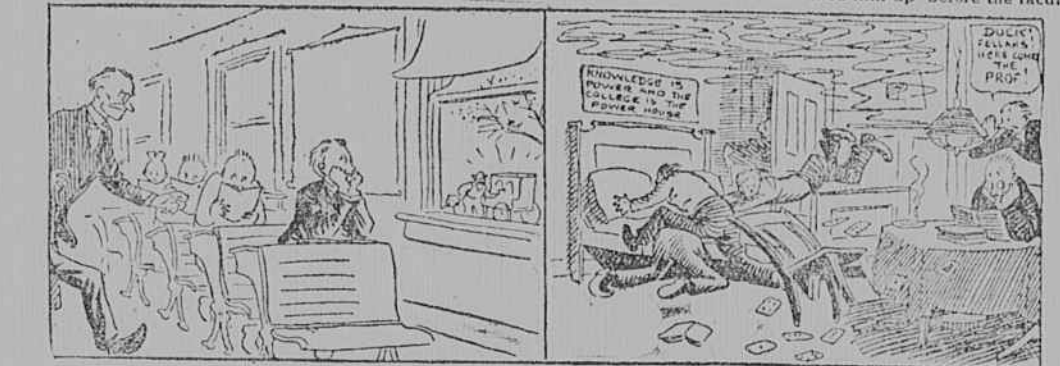


THE MAN WHO VOTES FOR WILSON WILL BE ASKED TO FORGET AND FORGIVE--

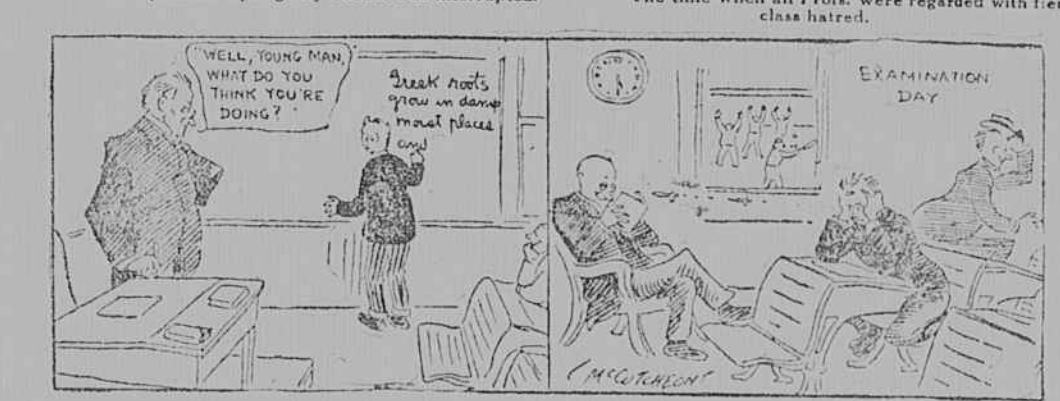
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The time teacher lie'd him in front of his lady love.



The time when a pleasant spring day dream was interrupted.



The time when the Prof. humiliated him before the whole class.

The time when all Profs. were regarded with fierce chafe hatred.

The time when the Prof. enjoyed himself reading while he struggled with the examination questions.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Analysis by the State.
Is there in Virginia any arrangement for free analysis of mineral water for medicinal purposes?
T. H. SPILL.
Will the State Chemist of Virginia make free analysis of a natural water for medicinal purposes?
H. HAMLEN.
To both it is replied that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Capitol Building, Richmond, Va., can in general arrange for such analysis at no charge. This service to citizens of Virginia is rather less a matter of legal requirement than one of state discretion on the part of Commissioner of Agriculture and the Department of Chemistry to aid material development in Virginia by every possible means.

Termination of Lease.
A lease expires on the 21st, and the 1st of the next month is Sunday. When should the tenant move?
P. M.
Whether the 1st of the next month is Sunday or not the tenant should be out by midnight of the 21st. Occurrence of the premises over Sunday and through part of the whole of Monday for moving would be matter not of the right of the outgoing tenant, but of arrangement of courtesy between him and the owner or the next tenant.

Leading Papers.
Please give the names of one or two great papers in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia.
READER.
Washington Post, Baltimore American, Philadelphia Record.

Carnegie Medals.
Please inform me whom to apply to for information about the requirements of award, etc., of the Carnegie medals.
C. E. FRETWELL.
It is supposed that you refer to "The Carnegie Hero Fund" for the medals and manager is F. M. Wilmer, Pittsburgh, Pa., who can, of course, give you the information you seek.

Unpardonable Sin.
Can you tell me in a word or two what is generally considered the most dreadful of crimes?
Nobility. It depends on what "generally" means and who does the "dreadful" crime. In certain circles of society the use of the wrong fork at dinner, etc., etc. Legally, the most dreadful crime would be those for which the most severe punishment is assigned. Personally and from some observation of the criminal classes we have arrived at a graduation of crime slightly different from that of the codes. It has always seemed to us that if a person would begin his career of crime with a murder, being careful to include several very old ladies and at least one child, then he should be allowed to embark on the career of the drug addict, and that after he had filled this role with careful attention to all its requirements for some ten or fifteen years, he might without presumption deem himself fitted to begin, at least in a modest way, the practice of the highest of criminal arts, the art of hurting people's feelings.

Convention of 1861-2.
Please give the date of assembling of the last Constitutional Convention in Virginia, and inform me who were the representatives from Albemarle County.
WESTVIEW.
Wednesday, June 12, 1861. John Albemarle and the city of Charlottesville, W. H. Boaz and J. H. Lindsay.

Greatest Altitude in Virginia.
Please tell me what is the highest point in Virginia.
A. T. Rogers, in Grayson county—5,715 feet.

Killing of Goebel.
Please tell me the date of the assassination of Governor Goebel, and the date of his funeral.
C. E. RAMSEY.
Shot January 30; died February 2, 1893.

Rose Blight.
Please inform me what will kill the "rose blight."
R. D. BALDWIN.
Write to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. They have a very useful bulletin on this kind of subject. Your roses are probably not much injured. Generally over the city here the rose bushes were in

AFFLICTED FAMILY VISITED BY DEATH

C. C. Mitchell Dies, and Wife Is Left With Her Helpless Children.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Bedford City, Va., August 2.—C. C. Mitchell, after a lingering illness, died at his home about ten miles from Bedford City, Wednesday night.

The funeral will take place Saturday morning at 11 o'clock from the home, conducted by Rev. Horace Wilkinson, of the Baptist Church. He will be buried with the rites of the order of Odd-Fellows, of which he was a member.

He is survived by his wife and five children. All of these children, who range in years from about twelve to over twenty years, are afflicted in the most unusual and remarkable manner with a disease known as Frederick's ataxia, which renders them almost helpless, without the power to perform any service for themselves, unable to speak intelligently, yet they are active without aid. With the intuition of a mother's devotion she has trained their memories in a remarkable degree teaching them to repeat in a jargon that she alone can understand, hymns, selections from the Bible and simple poems.

Their parents were very poor and some years since the small farm Mr. Mitchell had bought, but upon which he had not been able to make the payments, had to be sold. The case seemed so unutterably pitiable, that through the columns of newspapers the story was told by your correspondent and help asked. To the appeal there was quick and generous response from many parts of the United States, and even from Central America. Funds sufficient were thus secured to make full payment for the farm and make improvements to the home.

With debt removed Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, who were thrifty people, made a comfortable support from the proceeds of the farm for themselves and their hapless brood of children. Now that the father has been removed a very serious problem confronts the mother.

Cases of this disease are very rare and attract much interest among medical men. One of the children was sent when quite young to the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore for examination, and the case was pronounced hopeless of any amelioration.

Some years ago one of the girls who seemed less helpless than the others was sent to Richmond to Dr. Allison Hodges, and he exhibited her before the medical class of the University College of Medicine, but declared that no medical or surgical skill would avail.

The children are well grown and healthy, but nothing more pathetic than this widowed mother and her afflicted offspring. Inns can be imagined,